

have realized that he was making a monumental mistake of nearly 30 degrees!

In Menzies' interpretation, the border of drift ice and pack ice already starts just south of Rio de Janeiro Bay. The conclusion must be that the Pirî Reis map only gives an exact outline of the South American coast to approximately the Tropic of Capricorn. Further south there are no place names indicated, and so from there on his map must be fantasy. If, for comparison, we look at the Cantino world map of 1502, it is more "businesslike", and we see that it stops a little south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Do not forget that, in 1500, the Portuguese had discovered the Brazilian coast and navigated along it; the Bay of Rio de Janeiro was discovered and given that name on 1 January 1502. Pirî Reis says in his own comments that he based his map on the map of Columbus, taken from a Spanish sailor in 1501 (he repeats Columbus' mistakes in the Caribbean on his map) and from Portuguese world maps. There is no reason to believe that this is not true. Therefore the Pirî Reis map correctly depicts what had already been visited and mapped a few years before and the rest, just as with the mythological animals, the headless man and an elephant shown in the Sahara desert, is fantasy. These were illustrations to enlighten and amuse a public that was eager to learn about the mysteries of the unknown world.

Final conclusion: there are no pre-contact world maps. Menzies' ideas about the Chinese, as well as his interpretation of the Pirî Reis map are a hoax.

But now television has gotten into the act; Menzies' theories will soon be on a TV in your living room.

Herbert von Saher

For further reading:

Gregory C. McIntosh, *The Piri Reis Map of 1513*, The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia & London, 2000.

MOAI SIGHTINGS

WE HAVE A MOAI SIGHTING IN CENTRAL TEXAS! Rapanuiphile Mark Adkins has alerted us to two *moai* located in the Texas Hill Country, 75 miles northwest of San Antonio. It is called Stonehenge II and is located on a private ranch owned by the Sheppard family. There, on an obscure winding farm road, two miles from Hunt, Texas, is this amazing sight.

It all began around 1989 when the late Al Sheppard was given a large hunk of limestone (a left-over from his neighbor's patio project). Al placed it near the road but, after setting it up and placing a man-made arch behind it, it still seemed to be lacking that 'certain something'. The stone reminded him of England's Stonehenge and so, with the help of friend Doug Hill, he built an exact replica of Stonehenge at about 50-60% of the scale of the original structure. The *moai* were added later, following a visit that Al made to Rapa Nui. All are constructed from steel posts, rebar, and wire mesh, with concrete fill and graphite-plaster overlay. The statues are about 13 feet tall, including the *pukao*.

Sheppard's family continues the tradition of allowing the public free access to wander around amongst the ruins and statues. (Photo by Mark Adkins).



SANDY BROADRICK-ALLEN sends news about *moai* sightings in some gambling establishments, one aboard the casino boat, *Paradise*, in East Peoria, Illinois, and another on a one-cent machine at Harrahs Casino in St. Louis, Missouri. A firm named Aristocrat manufactures a nickel slot machine entitled "Easter Island". *Moai* can appear on any of the five reels, and all five are different (one laughs, another has a sparkling gold tooth, etc.). Or only a part of a *moai* may appear on a reel. When any part appears it functions as a wild symbol, thereby matching any paying combination. A small white flying saucer buzzes in at the top of the screen from time to time. If it comes in while one has a full *moai* in the center reel, it turns the *moai* to gold and pays off triple the amount. Sandy didn't mention whether she won or lost.

THE LATEST REI CATALOG has "Modern Water Bottles, Ancient Flair" advertised, with one of the designs being *moai* heads, and called "Bison Tiki Bottles" (we are not making this up). They come in yellow or purple and are truly ugly. OUR "CONTEST" TO PROVIDE A CAPTION for the mysterious parachuting *moai* in our last issue (*RNJ* 18(1):71) brought forth some fun replies. Elizabeth Clift of Phoenix came up with "Holy Hotu Matu'a!! The wind is pushing us to the slope of a volcano." Our Netherlands correspondent, Herbert von Saher, sent in "At last the Proof !! *Moai* WERE transported by

levitation". And, the person who sent in the picture, Avonne Bradshaw, added one of her own: "Chief, this is Sarge. None of the guys are hitting the target. They're going to be scattered all over the island."

Thanks guys. Good show. As we had no clear "winner" and the judges liked them all, we decided to declare them all winners. Folks, your surprise gift is in the mail!

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

AN EXHIBITION HAS OPENED in the Queen's House at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, called "William Hodges, 1744-1797: The Art of Exploration". It brings together many of his paintings from Cook's second expedition, mostly of Tahiti, the Marquesas and New Zealand, but also including, of course, the famous painting of Easter Island, showing rows of moai, some still wearing pukao. Unfortunately, this painting has been placed high up, above a door, so cannot really be examined very closely. There is a book to accompany the exhibition: the title is the same, and it is edited by Geoff Quilley and John Bonehill, Yale University Press 2004, £25. Admission is free at Greenwich, where the show runs till 21 November. From 27 January to 24 April it will be at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut.

Paul G. Bahn

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY has just opened a new archive department, where all their original stuff can be seen in person, or through the web – including Routledge's original drawings, photos, etc. Its website will have a searchable catalogue of its book, map and picture archives. You can't view maps or artifacts online, but from June 7th onward users will be able to find out if the society has the item they want and note its catalogue number. To search the catalogue on the website www.rgs.org, click on "collections"; about halfway down the next page click "online catalogues", and then "online catalogue searches". You are shown a screen that looks like a typical internet search engine, and can choose between two types of search facility – a basic search or a power search. For a basic search, enter a word or phrase such as Everest or Livingstone, and hit the return key, or click the "search" button on the screen. A power search also allows you to find the kind of archive item you are looking for, such as a book, map or picture.

Paul G. Bahn

RAPAMYCIN IN THE NEWS AGAIN. A drug isolated from a fungus found on Easter Island can, in combination with another antibiotic, deliver a knock-out punch for cancers that are unresponsive to current treatments. The two-drug combination therapy, described in *Nature*, led to the complete remission of cancer in all of the mice used in tests, a striking result. Animals treated with either drug alone, rapamycin or doxorubicin, rarely experienced complete remission.

The study establishes what the team says is "a new paradigm" for overcoming resistance to chemotherapy in many forms of cancer. Pre-cancerous cells can be eliminated by a self-destruct mechanism called programmed cell death. But the hallmark of most cancers is a defect in this mechanism

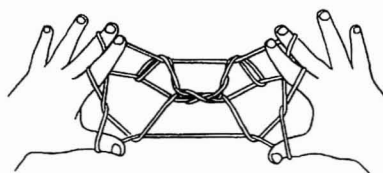
that enables pre-cancerous cells to survive. Because most traditional chemotherapy agents act by triggering programmed cell death, they are frequently rendered ineffective. So the research teams reasoned that – like a one-two knockout punch in boxing – use of one drug to restore the programmed cell death mechanism and a second drug to trigger the process might overcome resistance.

Roger Highfield, *Nature Science Editor*, 2004



A PALM FOREST at Santa Barbara, California. An amazing botanical collection at Lotusland (Santa Barbara) has, aside from a staggering collection of plants of all kinds, 41 giant Chilean wine palms, planted in the mid 1800s. These have grown to be enormous trees, towering over everything else in the garden. The photograph shows only a small portion of the forest (note that not all the palms shown in the picture are Chilean Wine Palms), but it gives an idea of what a forest of palms might have looked like, once upon a time, on Rapa Nui (Photo by Tom Neuman).

INTERNATIONAL STRING FIGURE ASSOCIATION



E Kuha, E Rati

On Easter Island string figures are known as *kaikai*. Each year during the *Tapati* festival participants in the *kaikai* contest attempt to weave the

island's traditional designs and recite the ancient chants that accompany them, all with great style and charm.

The International String Figure Association was founded in 1978 to gather and preserve string figures from around the world. Members receive our annual *Bulletin* (200-page book), quarterly magazine, and semi-annual newsletter.

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www.isfa.org/~webweavers/isfa.htm

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PACIFIC

PALAU

The 9th Festival of Pacific Arts took place July 22nd - 31st in Palau's capital, Koror. The festival featured participants from 24 countries and its theme, Nurture, Regenerate and Celebrate, was reflected in displays and performances throughout the ten days. Several art forms not previously displayed at the festivals were included: literary arts, architecture, videography and philatelic arts. Despite heavy rains, steamy heat, and muddy fields, the delegations performed to large and enthusiastic crowds from 10 am to midnight, or later. Among the crowds favorites were the Solomon Island pan pipes and the Rapa Nui group, Kari Kari (see photos). Rapanui participants included Lynn Rapu, Hopu Rapu, Akahanga Rapu, Hetu'u Rapu, Tavita Rapu, Matahonu Tepano, Gabriel Osorio, Pedro Chavez, Miguel Arevalo, Patricia Nahoe, Make Pakarati, Marcco Rapu and Jimmy Araki. Formal announcements were made that American Samoa will be the official hosts for the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in 2008.

Tricia Allen



Photo: Hilary Scothorn.



Photo: Hilary Scothorn.



Photo: Tricia Allen.

NAURU

AFTER BEING FORCED to abandon plans for a radioactive waste dump on a remote mainland site, Australia's Prime Minister, John Howard, has proposed sending Australia's low-level nuclear waste to an offshore Pacific island, perhaps Nauru. The repository was to be built on a sheep farm South Australia but, after years of wrangling, the government dropped the plan. Howard stated that the government would try to find a suitable site by going offshore if necessary, to one of the hundreds of islands around the coast. This proposal was attacked by the Labor opposition as a desperate attempt to solve the nuclear waste problem by creating "Pacific solution II" – a reference to the so-called Pacific solution by which unwanted asylum seekers were shipped to Pacific islands. Critics noted that the very idea of storing nuclear waste on a Pacific atoll or in a country like Nauru is dangerous, and should be condemned.

The Guardian Weekly, 14 July 2004

TUVALU

TUVALU IS THE PLANET'S fourth smallest nation – and it is facing extinction. Rising seas and storms are swamping the islands and some Tuvaluans are getting ready to leave their homeland. Critics claim all this is just to get special recognition for "environmental refugees" who wish to settle in New Zealand or Australia. Regardless of the political rhetoric and controversy (such as deleted sections of the Environmental Protection Agency's draft report on the environment), the waters are rising. Tuvalu's islands are low-lying and vulnerable and each storm causes more erosion; buildings that used to be in the center of a village are now beachfront property.

HAWAII

MOLOKA'I. SEA SALT IS BEING harvested from the waters off the Hawaiian island of Moloka'i, and rapidly is becoming the new upscale "designer" condiment. Te Rangi Hiroa (Sir Peter Buck), the distinguished anthropologist stated that Hawaiians were the only Polynesians who evaporated dry salt from the sea. Now this ancient practice is making a comeback, and selling for \$2 an ounce. Called "Soul of the Sea", this is the "signature" and main product of Hawaii Kai Corp. It is claimed that Soul of the Sea contains all of the salts and trace minerals of the ocean which means that it is only about 84 percent sodium chloride, or table salt. Some 3 percent consists of salts of potassium, calcium and magnesium, and the remainder is a combination of some 50 trace elements. This is adding to Moloka'i's economic base. Rather than a big factory, Hawaii Kai has set up a Salt Masters Guild of Hawai'i, "...providing to selected Moloka'i residents a fulfilling, respectable career consistent with island culture." In March, the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences awarded Soul of the Sea its Star Diamond Award for Outstanding Quality. The Bellagio in Las Vegas is a buyer, in 50-pound sacks. Even before Soul of the Sea, Hawaii Kai was already selling Palm Island Gourmet salt, touted as "an intriguing grade that combines affordability with many of the taste and mineral benefits of Soul of the Sea." Future plans are for drinking water, a saline facial and hair hydrating spray, a red alae/black lava bath salt, a range of grilling herbs and, possibly, branded cooking

utensils, cross-marketing with other food producers who would use Hawaii Kai salt in their recipes, agricultural salts or mineral supplements.

The unique concept on Moloka'i is to keep the solute in the same container (3-by-4-foot polyethylene trays) throughout, thus capturing everything in the water. Water taken out of the ocean today anywhere (except a few coastal areas) has been mixed "at least a thousand times" and the sodium chloride is unvarying. But the trace minerals have much shorter residence times, and that's why it matters that Soul of the Sea is harvested between Moloka'i and Lana'i and not elsewhere.

Harry Eagar, The Maui News for May 17, 2004

NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON UPROAR: One of Tonga's senior officials accused New Zealand of refusing to let her enter the country unless she would submit to a pregnancy test. Meleseni Lomu, Tonga's acting Secretary for Finance, had intended to accompany Tonga's finance minister for a 4 day meeting of Pacific Forum economic ministers in Rotorua. However, she cancelled the trip after New Zealand officials told her that she must have a pregnancy test or an interview before receiving a visa. Lomu stated that it was insulting to Tongan women to expect them to take pregnancy tests in order to visit the country, and added that, "Only women in Tonga are going through these tests as far as I know. I don't know why we had to be penalized for one person who went to New Zealand and had a baby there". Paul Swain, New Zealand's Immigration Minister, said there is no mandatory policy requiring women to undergo a pregnancy test to obtain a visa.

Radio New Zealand International, June 18, 2004

KON-TIKI REPLICA TO SAIL, AGAIN....A replica of the Kon-Tiki raft will sail the Pacific in 2005 to study increasing environmental threats to the oceans since Thor Heyerdahl made his original voyage in 1947. One of Heyerdahl's grandsons will be among the six-man crew which will depart from Peru and head toward Tahiti. The original voyage landed on Raroia atoll 4,970 miles from the coast of Peru. It took the original Kon Tiki 101 days to reach that point. Expedition leader Torgeir Saeverud Higrapp stated that he wants to highlight environmental threats. The trip is sponsored in part by the U.N. Environment Program.

Since Heyerdahl's original trip, there have been many changes. The forest in Ecuador where Heyerdahl found the balsa wood for the raft, for instance, has now been cut down by loggers. And global warming may be killing coral reefs and causing more frequent storms in the Pacific. Biologist Dag Oppen-Berntsen will take water samples to study for traces of pesticides and other human chemicals that can damage marine life. They will test to see if oil pollution has been reduced because of tighter international laws.

When asked why they don't do this from a proper research ship, they reply that by going on a balsa raft gets them more publicity. They are calling the new raft "Tangaroa" after the Polynesian sea god, and it will include solar panels to help transmit pictures to the internet. The project has a budget of \$899,200 with the yet-to-be-built vessel due to leave the Peruvian port of Callao on April 28 – the same day as Heyer-

dahl set out in 1947. The original crew included five Norwegians and a Swede. So far, the new crew are just five, including a Swede. They are one crewman short: they still need a good navigator.

Reuters, September 6, 2004

WHAT'S NEW 'IN HANGA ROA

CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW HANGA ROA CATHOLIC SCHOOL (Hermano Eugenio Eyraud SS.CC) is scheduled to begin at the end of September, now that construction materials have arrived to the island on the ocean tugboat *Galvarino*. The ship also carried cargo to repair the search-and-rescue launch, *Tokerau*, and also for the Gobernacion Maritima de Hanga Roa.

Repairs to the gym should be completed in August. Village rumors say that some APEC folks will be coming to the island in October for a meeting.

The new public school is supposed to be completed in October. By next March, grades kindergarten through the 6th grade will remain at the old school in town and the upper grades will be going to the new school. The old school in town will be given a "face lift". So far, the road is not paved to the new school, which is located outside the village where the old leper *sanitorio* used to be.

There also is talk of building a new hospital and a new airport terminal, including reorienting the airport parking area, which should be farther from the landing strip than it is now.

BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, a site for a new village cemetery must be found. Expanding the size of the old cemetery is opposed by those who live close to it, and yet most island residents want the cemetery to be near the village. The Mayor's plan is to place a new cemetery near the west end of the runway, north of the Hotel Iorana. That area cannot have any construction because it is in the path of incoming airplanes, so it is rather a dead zone anyway (no pun intended).

A NEW WEBSITE has pictures of the island's Mercado, and island carvings: <http://www.mercadonui.com/index.htm>

THE TOUR GUIDES OF RAPA NUI, together with Camara de Turismo and other entities, are in the process of finding a way to certify island guides. There are four workshops scheduled and hopefully, by the end of 2004, guides will be given a certification to be an "official guide". The importance of this cannot be underestimated. The way things are now, anyone – from a taxi driver newly-arrived from Valparaíso on – can call themselves a "guide" regardless of whether they know anything whatsoever about the island and its history.

A MARATHON RUN was held on the island in June. It seems to have been a great success, and plans are to continue this event next June. There were several races including a 10k and a 20k run (starting at 'Anakena beach). Over 100 people came for the event, including runners from Chile, Europe, USA, Finland, Australia, Japan, and China. Some Rapanui also competed in the races. The finish line was in Hanga Roa, near the old Hanga Roa hotel. This seems a good way to bring in some tourism during the slow winter season.



A shot of the finish of the marathon, in Hanga Roa. The run began at 'Anakena. Photo: Pat Gahan, Laguna Woods, California.

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